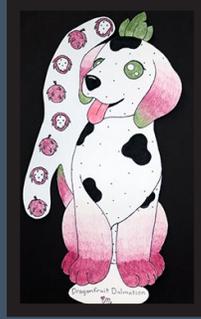




David Nagy,
Kindergarten



Naomi Johnson,
6th grade



Bethany Beavers,
8th grade



Gwen Kesler,
9th grade



Josiah Thornhill,
10th grade

The Art & Science Fair is tonight with art submissions viewing beginning at 5:30pm and the science fair event beginning at 6:00pm in the Moomaw Center.

THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

QUID NOVI

MARCH 9, 2026
VOL. 28 NO. 22 MAJORIS

AND NOW FOR EVEN MORE COMPLAINTS

by John Heaton, Headmaster

In a recent QUID NOVI I catalogued a few common complaints students lodge with their parents and teachers. We have all heard them. The frustrated student often complains about school, usually because he encounters it in a way that is not ordered to his liking or expectation. Such complaints fall into several categories, and it's helpful to identify them. (If you missed part one, you can read it [here](#).) They include:

- **Complaints About Meaning and Purpose.** These are the most common and are usually captured in pointed soundbites: "Why do I have to learn this?" or "When am I ever going to use this?"
- **Engagement and Interest Complaints.** A student

gets in the car, and, when asked about the day, replies, "School is soooo boring," or "Can't we do something more interesting?"

- **Social and Identity Complaints.** A third category of frustration is found in the way students belong and compare themselves to one another. It manifests itself, in part, when a student says, "Everyone gets it but me," or "I'm just bad at math."

There are two more kinds of complaints to explore.

Fairness and Evaluation Complaints. These center on grading and expectation, and are often expressed in words such as, "That's not fair," or "Why

continued on p.4

WHAT'S NEW?

Special Projects: Thank You



Earlier this fall, we circulated a new publication focusing on the various ways in which our community can become connected through volunteering and giving of time, talents, and treasure to our school. There were several opportunities showcased in which our Director of Parent Relations Tiffany Fulcher assigned many of you. There were also a few special projects listed that

required a specific skill set to be completed. You responded quickly and joyfully to our requests. Thank you to everyone who has given of their time to help in various ways. Thank you especially to parents **Joel Olenik** (Eden-8, Simon-6, Jesse-3, Silas-K) and **Jeremiah Rose** (Elle-11, Eli-9) who built a ramp on the shed in the dell and mitigated water runoff from the fitness center parking lot. We also

appreciate **Timothy Davidson** (Sophie-3, Faye-PK) for using his skills to pull wire under a sidewalk to the drama shed to help with electrical needs for that location. Other projects will be completed this spring. Thank you to **Ryan Jay** (Lanie-4, Addison-3) and **Rob Simpkins** (Rebekah Borah-class of 2016, Scott Borah-class of 2019) for volunteering to fix our garden boxes.

H O N O R A R I A

HEARTS & HANDS INCENTIVES

Hands & Hearts sponsorship packets were sent home with the youngest student in your family last week. Thank you for completing and returning the letters to your child's teacher. Your participation helps us provide the necessary supplies for projects at our various work locations. Each returned letter receives one ticket for a chance to win one of the following prizes (\$250 donation = 20 tickets). If you did not receive a packet, please contact Dayna Renalds. drenalds@newcovenantschools.org

Bucket 1 – Large (3.5 ft) gray bean bag chair

Bucket 2 – Wise Owl 500-lb. portable camp hammock with tree straps

Bucket 3 – Candy Bucket

Bucket 4 – Chick-fil-A gift basket

Bucket 5 – \$50 DICKS gift card

Bucket 6 – Drone with camera

Bucket 7 – FunQuest free activity 5-pack

Bucket 8 – Large 36" stuffed axolotl

Bucket 9 – Four (4) Lynchburg Howlers tickets (baseball team)

Bucket 10 – Inflatable SUP (ROC brand) with kayak seat

Bucket 11 – Ice Cream party for your class or homeroom

Bucket 12 – JBL Tune 720 BT wireless headphones

Bucket 13 – Kendra Scott necklace & earring set

Bucket 14 – Lava lamp

Bucket 15 – Nascar Hall of Fame tickets

Bucket 16 – RC Speed Hunter remote-controlled car

Bucket 17 – Richmond Kickers tickets (professional soccer team)

Bucket 18 – One month Rise Up membership for 2 including equipment rental

Bucket 19 – Slime set

Bucket 20 – \$50 Starbucks gift card

Bucket 21 – \$50 added to family lunch balance

Bucket 22 – Stay Fit camp registration (up to 3 students)

Bucket 23 – Spike ball set

Bucket 24 – Stanley 30 oz. flip straw tumbler

Tickets will be distributed on April 13 to each family. All students and families are welcome to participate.

Thank you for returning your completed sponsorship letters. We appreciate your involvement.

BREAKFAST WITH THE HEADMASTER

You are cordially invited to join Headmaster **John Heaton** for breakfast along with other parents from New Covenant at the home of **Naomi and JoeDee Hostetler** on **Wednesday, March 11** at 8:45am. Please check your schedule and let us know you are coming here: bit.ly/HHbreakfast26. Headmaster Heaton looks forward to visiting with each of you, answering questions, and sharing ways to support your child and participate in our school community.



FUNDRAISING REPORT

	GOAL	RECEIVED
Annual Fund	\$300,000	\$312,700
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$53,070
Scholarship Foundation	\$300,000	Pledged Received \$463,700 \$440,511

Please consider New Covenant Schools in your giving. All gifts are tax-deductible to the extent that the law provides. Donations may be given through cash, check, stock transfers, or IRA distributions. Contact **Dayna Renalds** in the Development Office for more information.

E T C E T E R A

EVERYONE

LUNCH ORDERING

Fourth-quarter lunch and milk ordering is now open! Deadline to order lunch and milk for the remainder of this school year is **today, March 9**. Be sure to utilize the “once and done” option if ordering the same item each week (includes a discount). Questions? Refer to the Lunch Times article [HERE](#), or contact **Debbie Williamson** at dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org.

ONLINE ENROLLMENT PACKET REVIEW

Please make sure to complete your Online Enrollment Information Review Packet, which can be found on FACTS under Apply/Enroll or on the App under Online Enrollment Information Review. This review packet is required to be completed for all students. See email sent by **Eliza Olson** on Wednesday, March 4 for details. Please reach out to Eliza at eolson@newcovenantschools.org with any questions.

END OF QUARTER

The third quarter will end on **Friday, March 13**. Report cards will be emailed to parents on **Wednesday, April 1**.

GENERATIONS DAY

Generations Day will be held on **Friday, March 13**. Grandparents and other special guests are invited to join students in class for the morning. **There will be an 11:00am dismissal on this day.**

SPRING BREAK

Spring Break will begin on **Monday, March 16** and continue through **Friday, March 20**. Students will return to school on **Monday, March 23**.

LOST AND FOUND

The Lost and Found bins are purged at the end of each quarter. Be sure to check for any lost items before **Friday, March 13**.

HANDS & HEARTS

Hands & Hearts is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 22**. Sponsorship packets were sent home with the youngest student in each family last week. Please return them to the office by **Friday, March 13**.

NATIONAL LATIN EXAMS

The National Latin Exam will be proctored during the school day to all Latin classes in grades 7-12 next **Wednesday, March 11**. The NLE is given on six different levels to match the Latin experience at each grade level. We will receive notice of honors earned by students later in the spring and awards will be presented at end-of-year assemblies.

ART & SCIENCE FAIR

Plan to join us **tonight** for the Art & Science Fair. Come out and view the artistic endeavors of our students and enjoy watching them compete in various science challenges. Art viewing will begin at 5:30pm, and science challenges will start around 6:00pm. Hot dog combo meals will be available to purchase. This is an enjoyable event for the whole family and not one to miss.

CHILDCARE TAX DOCUMENTS

Need payment details for Pre-K or Aftercare for tax purposes? Access them easily through your FACTS Family Portal (District Code: NCS-VA):

- Go to **Financial > Financial Home**
- Under **Payment Plans & Billing**, select **View Details**
- Click **View Payment Summary** and choose the tax year

Your payment summary and New Covenant's Federal Tax ID will be displayed. For assistance, contact **April Andrade** at aandrade@newcovenantschools.org.

WINTER SPORTS AWARDS

The award ceremonies for our JV/Varsity winter sports teams and athletes will be held on **Wednesday, March 11 at 12:40pm**.

WORKOUT AND TRAINING PROGRAM

New Covenant alum Janna Renalds ('21) is offering a workout & training program for moms at New Covenant on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Sessions include strength training, cardio, and flexibility. For details and pricing, contact Janna at renaldj828@lynchburg.edu.

MOMS IN PRAYER

All moms are invited to this weekly meeting for a time of prayer. Come join us in this new year as we pray for our children and our school community. We meet **Wednesdays from 2:00-3:00pm** in the Marie Macdonald Chapel.



did I get marked wrong?” Or, my favorite, “Why do spelling and grammar, or steps matter if my answer is right?” as if to say, “As long as I get the concept, the way I express it no longer matters.” When we push back on this and require accuracy in expression, we are saving your child from catastrophe at his or her first job. The underlying question that is in play is much deeper, and touches on what it means to be judged, measured or formed.

The long-term trend that I have noticed in my nearly 30 years at New Covenant has been a gradual social shift—subtle, but real—which indulges a growing sense of equality between students and teachers. I have observed an unspoken underlying attitude which seems to nurture the conviction that the student’s opinion or performance is to be valued for what it is and is beyond serious critique. It operates less from a position of doubting about the teacher’s expertise, and more from a supposition that all opinions are equal and must therefore be respected.

There are two ways to respond, depending upon the kind of work being produced. By its objective character, working out math problems is more like conjugating Latin paradigms than writing a five-paragraph essay or a book report. Because of these differences we create very clear rubrics for the kind of work we are doing. These are written instructions that provide an objective standard to the degree possible for evaluating a student’s effort. Second, we require students to work the whole process without shortcuts, showing their work, documenting their research, demonstrating that they have put in the “thought.” When students show what they are thinking, the deficiencies, inaccuracies or flaws are more easily demonstrated and can therefore be supportively addressed for improvement.

Evaluation can be stressful and even painful for students in some circumstances. This is why a posture of student support is a core value at New Covenant. Our standards are high, and

our commitment to student formation is constant. Both require an environment where a student can meet success with humility and failure with confidence.

Effort and Workload Complaints. A final complaint a student may lodge falls into the category of labor and endurance. This is often expressed as “Why do we have homework?” or “Why do we have to do so much work?” or “Why do I have to redo this?” or “Can’t I just be done?” I have heard all of this from my own children, and from some of yours. First, workloads at New Covenant can appear uneven, but not for reasons you might think. Some students will “never” have homework, while another will “always” have three hours a night. In other words, no matter what the homework policy is—and we do have one—students respond very differently based on their internal motivation.

Second, homework, when required of younger students, should be for review and solidification, not for discovery. As such it should be limited. A full day of school is a “workday,” and students should have life outside of the classroom for church, family, and recreation. At the same time, review is essential for retention, especially in the disciplines of math and language. As students mature into upper middle school and beyond, they should be able to move beyond mere review to the higher skill of constructing knowledge in their assignments. To the extent possible, class periods in the School of Dialectic and the School of Rhetoric are scheduled so that students have in-class, on-task learning under the supervision of their teachers (as opposed to a full hour of a teacher in a lecture mode).

Ultimately, this type of complaint pertains to the question of effort as intrinsic to learning, as opposed to assigning arbitrary make-work, and it is a distinguishing feature of New Covenant. Students and parents who transfer from other schools often worry about integrating into Latin, logic, or

any number of other disciplines. I assure them that we have time-tested ways on-boarding their children. I am clear, however, that the major adjustment is not that of specific disciplines; rather, the larger adjustment is that a student must assimilate into a school that maintains a culture of learning. Many students, my 14-year-old self included, move through school with the attitude that school is something that happens to you. Show up. School happens. Move to the next grade. Not so here. Student engagement is essential, and our approach relies upon limited class sizes, appropriate teacher loads, and intentional scheduling and pedagogy, so that a student’s habits are well-known to the teacher.

Student complaints are actually not objections, but unarticulated questions. They pertain to the very grown-up issues of meaning, agency, identity, affections, and delight. Put this way, we can welcome the student complaint, confident that a classical, Christian education is uniquely designed to answer the inquiry, and that the classical, Christian teacher is striving to meet students with the support they need to grow in wisdom and virtue.

QUID NOVI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CLASS OF 2026 • John Gauger,
Nancy Hall, Chris Misiano, Sam Mizener,
Tom Rogers, Anne Umbarger
CLASS OF 2027 • Dusty Miller, Court Shipman
CLASS OF 2028 • Neil Bohnert, Scott
McCurley, Leann Perault, Leland Seckman

EX OFFICIO

John Heaton—Headmaster
Davidson Morse—School Warden

OUR MISSION

New Covenant Schools is an educational community serving families of Central Virginia, providing an exceptional education in a classical curriculum within the framework of historic Christianity, furnishing the student with the tools of education and the inspiration to be a lifelong learner.

NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS



2026 SUMMER CAMPS

AMERICAN GIRL DOLL CAMP

*Rising 2nd – 5th Grade Girls
June 8 – June 12*

In honor of the United States' 250th anniversary, we will be learning about Felicity, who is from 1774! The American Girl Doll Camp will run for one week, **Monday, June 8 – Friday, June 12** from 9:00am–12:30pm. The cost is \$275 and the **deadline to sign up is May 18**. Camp is limited to 12 girls. After completing the registration, you will receive a confirmation email.

Register here:
bit.ly/AG_Camp2026

CERAMICS CAMP

*Rising 8th – 12th Graders
July 14 – July 20*

Ceramics camp is a week-long, hands-on experience designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of wheel-throwing. Students will learn how to create hand-thrown ceramic art from start to finish. This camp runs from **Tuesday, July 14 – Monday July 20** from 9:00am–noon. The cost is \$250 and the **deadline to sign up is May 18**. Camp is limited to six students. After completing the registration, you will receive a confirmation email.

Register here:
bit.ly/Ceramics_Camp2026

DRAMA CAMP 1 "THE FROG PRINCE"

*Rising 3rd – 5th Graders
July 6 – July 10*

(Play performance will be held on the afternoon of July 10.)

This camp will focus on creating a short performance of the classic fairy tale, *The Frog Prince*. Students will learn how to work together as an ensemble to present this clever tale of transformation. It runs **Monday, July 6 – Friday, July 10** from 9:00am–1:00pm. The cost is \$275 and the **deadline to sign up is May 18**. The camp is limited to 20 students. After completing the registration, you will receive a confirmation email.

Register here:
bit.ly/DramaCamp1_2026

DRAMA CAMP 2 "RAPUNZEL"

*Rising 6th – 8th Graders
July 13 – July 17*

(Play performance will be held the afternoon of July 17.)

Students will create a performance of the classic fairy tale, *Rapunzel*. Students will learn about staging, acting, costuming, and ensemble work as they develop this story during the weeklong camp. It runs **Monday, July 13 – Friday, July 17** from 9:00am–1:00pm. The cost is \$275 and the **deadline to sign up is May 18**. The camp is limited to 20 students. After completing the registration, you will receive a confirmation email.

Register here:
bit.ly/DramaCamp2_2026

STAYFIT CAMP

*Rising 1st – 7th Graders
Two Sessions*

Our annual StayFit Camp will be offered in two sessions this year. The camp will be Monday through Thursday each week with no camp on Fridays. The first session will be held **June 15 –25**, 9:00am–noon. The second session will be held **July 6–16**, 9:00am–noon. The cost is \$200 for a two-week session for the first child in a family and \$50 for each additional sibling. The cost is \$350 for a four-week session for the first child in a family and \$75 for each additional sibling. **The deadline to sign up is Friday, May 18**. After completing the registration, you will receive a confirmation email.

Register here:
bit.ly/Stayfit_2026

STRINGS CAMP

*Rising 5th – 12th Graders
Two Sessions*

The Strings Camp will help students of all skill levels develop their ability in a small-group setting. This camp will be offered in two sessions. The first session will be **Monday, June 8 – Friday, June 12**, 9:00am–noon. The second session will be **Monday, June 15 – Friday, June 19**, 9:00am–noon. The cost is \$250 and the **deadline to sign up is May 18**. Limited scholarships are available for those with documentable financial need. After completing the registration, you will receive a confirmation email.

Register here:
bit.ly/Strings_Camp2026

CURRENT OPENINGS GRAMMAR SCHOOL 2026-27

NEW COVENANT schools



FULL FACULTY POSITION

Currently accepting applications for a **full-time Kindergarten instructor** in the Grammar School through March 20, 2026, with selected interviews to follow.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education or a related field;
- Demonstrated experience teaching multiple subject areas at the elementary level;
- Ability to implement a range of age-appropriate classroom management strategies, exercised with Christian grace and consistency.

The position is compensated competitively based upon level of experience and demonstrated classroom success. Questions related to the position can be directed to **Bridges Spiva, Grammar School Principal**, at bspiva@newcovenantschools.org. Interested candidates should submit an application and résumé by choosing the "Join Our Team" button on the school website.



PART-TIME AIDE POSITIONS

The Grammar School is currently accepting applications for several part-time aide positions.

1ST GRADE CLASSROOM AIDE (TWO POSITIONS)

Works under the direction of the classroom teacher to reinforce routines and expectations while helping maintain an orderly and attentive learning environment. Responsibilities include assisting with instruction, supervising students during transitions and recess, and providing general classroom support to help students remain engaged and on task. **Hours:** Monday–Friday, 7:30am–12:30pm.

PreK CLASSROOM AIDE

Supports the primary PreK teacher in maintaining a safe,

nurturing, and orderly classroom environment. Duties include assisting with classroom activities, supervising play and transitions, preparing materials, and assisting with daily routines such as snack, recess, and clean-up. **Hours:** Monday–Friday, 7:30am–12:30 pm.

PE AIDE

Implements lesson plans developed by the PE teacher for students in grades 1–4 in both the field house and fitness center. Experience supervising the use of gym equipment preferred. **Hours:** Approximately 15 hours per week; schedule varies.

QUALIFICATIONS

- High school diploma required; bachelor's degree preferred

- Ability to work effectively with young children while reinforcing clear expectations with patience and grace
- Dependable, organized, and able to work collaboratively with colleagues

Compensation is competitive and based on experience. Questions about these positions may be directed to **Bridges Spiva, Grammar School Principal**, at bspiva@newcovenantschools.org. Interested candidates should submit an application and résumé by choosing the "Join Our Team" button on the school website.

